Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented)   In a network resolution domain a User Distribution Server (UDS) disposed to determine from a plurality of network servers a specific network server in charge of a user under a particular service environment, said UDS comprising:

a secondary database having storage for a plurality of user identifiers for identifying the user under different service environments, and selected service data per specific network server and per user basis;

a mechanism for transferring said plurality of user identifiers and selected service data to said secondary database from primary databases associated with respective network servers;

a querying mechanism for receiving a service request from a Service Requester Node; and

a response mechanism for sending a server identifier of said specific network server to the Service Requester Node in response to the service request, wherein the server identifier is usable by said Service Requester Node to determine said specific network server.

2. (Previously Presented)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 1 wherein: said response mechanism further comprises selectively sending:

the specific network server in charge of said user under a particular service environment;

a list of possible servers if a redundant configuration exists; and

a new user identifier with an indication that another query on said new identifier is necessary.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 1 wherein: said UDS is adapted as a first UDS and said network includes a second UDS, and wherein: said transfer, querying and response mechanisms are respectively disposed to transmit data between said first UDS and said second UDS.

4.   (Original)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 1 wherein: said transferring mechanism comprises operating means for recovering user identifiers and necessary service data from specific network servers acting as primary databases.

5.   (Original)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 1 wherein: the operating means includes means for informing said UDS about needs for updating user identifiers and/or necessary service data at indication from primary databases or another UDS.

6.   (Original)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 5, wherein: the operating means includes means for said UDS registering into and withdrawing from all network servers intended for acting as primary databases.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 6 wherein:
    the operating means includes means for indicating recovery preferences for recovering user identifiers and necessary service data for all served users, for a specific set of users, or only for a particular user.

8.   (Original)   The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 7 wherein: the operating means further includes means for recovering user identifiers and necessary service data selectively, for at least one set of:
    (a) identifiers of a specific type amongst a plurality of valid identifier types;
    (b) identifiers used in specific domains; and
    (c) identifiers belonging to specific identification spaces in a domain.

9. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 8 wherein data sensitive to temporary validity per specific network service include a "Time To Live" (TTL) parameter intended for determining the needs for data recovery from primary databases.

10. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 8, further comprising: at least one protocol handler module and, in the event said UDS comprises more than one protocol handler module, a protocol discriminator module, each protocol handler module being in charge of a particular telecommunications protocol.

11. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 10, comprising: at least one "Domain Name Server (DNS)" related protocol handler module.

12. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 10, comprising: at least one "Diameter" related protocol handler module.

13. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 10. comprising: at least one "Light-Weight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)" related protocol handler module.

14. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 10 comprising: at least one "Radius" related protocol handler module.

15. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 10, further comprising protocol and processing means for responding to the service request using an external database not intended for acting as primary database or as another UDS.

16. (Original) The User Distribution Server (UDS) of claim 15, wherein said external database is a number portability database.

17. (Previously Presented) A telecommunications system comprising:

at least one subscriber having a plurality of user identifiers for identifying said subscriber under different service environments;

a plurality of servers; and

a User Distribution Server (UDS) for determining a specific network server in charge of said user under a particular service environment, wherein said UDS comprises:

a secondary database providing storage for user identifiers and selected service data pertaining to said servers per specific network server and per user basis;

a mechanism for transferring user identifiers and said selected service data to said secondary database from selected servers acting as primary databases;

a querying mechanism for receiving a service request from a Service Requester Node; and

a response mechanism for sending a server identifier of said specific network server to the Service Requester Node in response to said service request.

18. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 17 wherein: relevant user identifiers in at least one of a plurality of primary databases may be submitted for updating to one specific UDS, to a group of UDS, or to all UDS known at said at least one of a plurality of primary databases, selectively.

19. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 18, wherein: at least one of the plurality of primary databases is arranged for receiving UDS recovery preferences from one specific UDS, from a group of UDS, or from all UDS known at said at least one primary database, selectively, and for updating each UDS accordingly with each of the recovery preferences.

20.   (Original)   The telecommunications system of claim 19, wherein: the UDS acts as a Subscription Locator Function (SLF).

21.   (Original)   The telecommunications system of claim 19, wherein: at least one of a plurality of specific servers acting as primary databases is a Home Subscription Server (HSS).

22.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 19, wherein: at least one of the plurality of specific servers acting as primary databases is a Presence Server.

23.   (Original)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of a plurality of Service Requester Nodes is an Interrogating Call Status Control Function (I-CSCF).

24.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is a Serving Call Status Control Function (S-CSCF).

25.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is a Mobile Switching Center (MSC).

26.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is a Signaling Gateway.

27.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is a GPRS Supporting Node.

28.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is an Application Server (AS) intended for multimedia related use.

29.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is an Open Service Architecture Service Capability Server.

30.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is a Multimedia Messaging Server.

31.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of Service Requester Nodes is a CAMEL Gateway Server.

32.   (Original)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of a plurality of external databases used for resolution is a Domain Name Server.

33.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of external databases used for resolution is a database system based on Light-Weight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

34.   (Previously Presented)   The telecommunications system of claim 17, wherein: at least one of the plurality of external databases used for resolution is a number portability database.

35.   (Previously Presented)   In a network resolution domain having a plurality of user identifiers on a per subscriber basis for identifying a user under different service environments, and wherein a User Distribution Server (UDS) is disposed to determine from a plurality of network servers a specific network server in charge of said user under a particular service environment, a method for operating the UDS comprising the steps of:

establishing a secondary database in said UDS for storing user identifiers and selected service data pertaining to said network servers per specific network server and per user basis;

transferring user identifiers and said selected service data to said secondary database from primary databases associated with respective network servers;

receiving a service request from a Service Requester Node; and

sending a server identifier of said specific network server from said UDS to said Service Requester Node in response to said request, said server identifier usable by said Service Requester Node to determine said specific network server.

36.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 35 wherein the response to said request further selectively comprises:

the specific network server in charge of said user under a particular service environment;

a list of possible servers if a redundant configuration exists; and

a new user identifier with an indication that another query on said new identifier is necessary.

37.   (Original)   The method of claim 35 wherein said UDS comprises a first UDS and said network includes a second UDS, and wherein: said transfer, receiving

and answer transmitting steps, respectively include data transmission between said first UDS and said second UDS.